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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/301,811	04/28/1999	JOHN R. HURST	242/044	6113

7590 01/02/2003

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

ALLEN, MARIANNE P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1631	14

DATE MAILED: 01/02/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/301,811	HURST ET AL.
	Examiner Marianne P. Allen	Art Unit 1631

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) Claim(s) 1,10-33 and 37-45 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 37-45 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 10-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1, 10-33, 37-45 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
  - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

## **DETAILED ACTION**

Applicant's arguments filed 10/7/02 have been fully considered but they are not fully persuasive.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

### ***Election/Restrictions***

Claims 37-45 remain withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

Claims 10–33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. This is a new matter rejection.

The previous Office action indicated that basis for claims 10-33 as amended was not apparent. It does not appear from applicant's response that this rejection was fully understood. As such, the examiner reiterates the rejection and provides an expanded explanation.

Claims 10 and 23 are not originally filed claims.

Claim 10 was previously amended to recite "wherein a first of the database." It appears that this phrase is incomplete. Basis for such claim language is not apparent. Applicant's response did not address this point.

Claim 10 was previously been amended to recite "to correlate rows." While the specification at page 24 refers to **associating** rows of databases implemented in the form of

tables, the specification does not disclose **correlation** of databases rows. Correlation is not the same concept as association. Basis for this claim language is not apparent.

Note also that the steps set forth in claim 10 do not make clear that the fuzzy similarity join is with respect to the target item and not the totality or some larger subset of the first database table. Note that there doesn't appear to be any contemplation of "retrieving at least one item from the result of the join" in the specification. The specification discloses returning all of the results to the user. Note that the original claims and Table 6 use an identification of a target compound and neighborhood range as input.

There does not appear to be basis for the recited steps of claim 23. For example, the specification does not appear to disclose a method where a **property** is identified for a target compound where this target compound is present in a **second** database table and that a chemical similarity join is performed on a **first** database table to identify compounds with similar properties. Note that the specification does not appear to disclose joining a first database with a second database where it is the second database that contains information about the target compound. Note that the original claims and Table 6 use an identification of a target compound and neighborhood range as input and not a property. Note that claim 23 does not require the user to provide or select the neighborhood range or degree of similarity.

Applicant must point to page and line number in the specification for each of the limitations in these claims to demonstrate contemplation of the invention as is now claimed.

### *Conclusion*

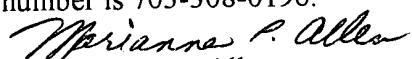
No claim is allowed.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marianne P. Allen whose telephone number is 703-308-0666. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward can be reached on 703-308-4028. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3014 for regular communications and 703-305-3014 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.



Marianne P. Allen  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1631

mpa  
December 30, 2002